

Success Stories

The year 2002 was a very active and productive year. The many National Fire Plan partners at the federal, state, local, and tribal levels worked diligently, in a collaborative spirit, to ensure success of the programs supported by the National Fire Plan. There are many success stories for each of the key points of the National Fire Plan, too many to include in this document. Following are vignettes of National Fire Plan achievements across the nation.

Firefighting

- The Interagency Air Operations Center funded by the National Fire Plan opened in June 2002, in Cedar City, Utah. This new facility was a cooperative effort between the Bureau of Land Management Cedar City District Office, Zion National Park, Dixie National Forest, and Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The center houses an air tanker base, a fixed-wing base, an eight-person helicopter module, and a dispatch center to coordinate air activity.

- The National Fire Plan provided preparedness funds to the Modoc National Forest in California to increase firefighting capabilities. The Forest added an engine crew, hotshot crew, watertender, lookout and fire management officer, and upgraded three engines and a prevention unit to larger equipment. The Modoc Interregional Hotshot Crew, funded for 130 days, spent 104 days on wildland fire assignments, and then dedicated the remaining 26 days to training and forest project work. The crew responded to 11 large fires in California and Colorado, provided instructors for forest-level fire courses and supported the National Wildland Firefighter Apprenticeship program by providing four details for Region 5 and 6 apprentices. Fifteen additional engine personnel, including two from the National Park Service, completed wildland fire assignments with the crew.



- Two new fire warehouses in the Bitterroot National Forest, Montana, were made possible with National Fire Plan funding. The Stevensville fire warehouse, completed January 2002, houses two engines, and is equipped with a kitchen, storage, office space, two restrooms with showers, fitness room, mechanics area, and a “ready room,” with lockers for gear. The Darby warehouse provides accommodations for the Bitterroot Hotshots, with employee offices, training/conference room, “ready room,” two restrooms, and storage area.

- The new Indiana Interagency Coordination Center (IICC) located in the Hoosier National Forest in Indiana opened August 2002, with shared staffing and space for firefighters, training, and equipment. The Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Indiana Department of Natural Resources worked with National Fire Plan funding to build the new center. Serving as the focal point for resource mobilization, the center also coordinates all fire training statewide. The center is streamlining emergency response for the state of Indiana, at state and national levels, as IICC processes resource orders mobilizing Type 2 interagency hand crews, wildland engines, and overhead orders.

- Through a grant from the National Fire Plan, the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources Fire Danger Working Group has nine of 12 scheduled new Remote Automated Weather Station towers up and operational. These weather stations track weather variables so information can be conveyed almost immediately to people in the field or on the fireline.

